

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/718,067	MENSCH ET AL.	
	Examiner Richard M. Lorence	Art Unit 3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment received on 07 July 2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 7-12.
3.  The drawings filed on 07 July 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The amendment filed on July 7, 2005 has been entered. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 have been amended and claims 2-6 have been cancelled.

The replacement drawing sheet containing Figures 4 and 5 was received on July 7, 2005. These drawings are acceptable.

Claims 1 and 7-12 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record shows or suggests a pressure plate assembly for a friction clutch including the housing, pressure plate, energy storage element, spacer pins and assembly pretensioning arrangement arranged together in the manner set forth in claim 1, and particularly wherein the energy storage element is mounted on the outer side of the housing, each of the spacer pins includes a support area at an end facing away from the housing, and the assembly pretensioning arrangement includes at least one assembly pretensioning element positioned between the energy storage element and the supporting area of the each of the spacer pins so that a force feedback of the energy storage element occurs through the spacer pins themselves when the energy storage element is in a pretensioned assembly position.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a process for bringing an energy storage element connected on an outer axial side of the housing of a pressure plate assembly of a friction clutch into a pretensioned assembly position and holding the energy storage element in the pretensioned assembly position, including the steps of

exerting a force on the energy storage element, inserting at least one assembly pretensioning element, and releasing the energy storage element set forth in claim 9, and particularly wherein the step of exerting a force on the energy storage element produces an intermediate space between the energy storage element and a support area of a spacer pin which supports the energy storage element on the housing, the at least one assembly pretensioning element is inserted into the intermediate space, and the energy storage element arrives in the pretensioned assembly position upon releasing the energy storage element against the at least one assembly pretensioning element so that a force feedback of the energy storage element occurs through the spacer pins themselves.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a pressure plate assembly including a housing, a pressure plate, an energy storage element mounted on the outer side of the housing, and spacer pins including a support area at an end facing away from the housing in combination with the assembly pretensioning arrangement set forth in claim 10, and particularly wherein the assembly pretensioning arrangement includes at least one assembly pretensioning element positionable between the energy storage element and the supporting area of the each of the spacer pins in a pretensioned assembly state so that a force feedback of the energy storage element occurs through the spacer pins themselves when the energy storage element is in a pretensioned assembly position.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is (571) 272-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Richard M. Lorence  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3681

Lorence/rml